



Catch Basin Care

Why be concerned?

Catch basins are storm sewer inlets that filter out debris such as leaves and litter. They are typically located next to street curbs or in the rear yards of residential areas.

It is important to maintain catch basins to prevent storm sewer blockages and minimize the amount of pollutants entering storm sewers. Storm sewers either discharge into detention basins or directly into streams.

Clogged catch basins can also cause water to pond along streets and in yards. This flooding can be a nuisance to motorists and homeowners.



Are You Responsible For Catch Basin Care?

Catch basins in public roads are maintained by the Genesee County Road Commission or your City or Village Public Works or Utility Department. Your Homeowners Association is responsible for catch basin maintenance if you live in a subdivision, site condominium or attached condominium neighborhood with private roads.

Stormwater drainage systems are typically designed to remove water from a developed area as quickly as possible during a storm. While these systems are convenient for urban residents, they also carry pollutants to surface waters at a 'rapid transit' pace. Contrary to popular belief, pet wastes, oil and other materials dumped into storm sewer grates do not go to the waste water treatment plant, but flow directly into streams and lakes. For example: dumping oil into a storm sewer grate has almost unthinkable consequences. When it reaches the water, five quarts of oil can create a slick as large as two football fields and persist on mud or plants for six months or more.

How Are Catch Basins Maintained?

1) Remove Debris from Grates

The grates of catch basins can become clogged with litter or leaves, especially in the spring and fall. Regularly inspect the grate & remove debris. Encourage neighbors to adopt the catch basins in front of their homes, and keep them free of debris.

2) Remove Debris from Storage Area

Catch basins should be cleaned out before the storage area is half full. Once this level is reached, debris begins to wash into sewer pipes. **This is either done by the county, township, city, village or private contractor.**

Stenciling

Your Storm Drains



Stenciled or applied decals that read "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" are a good reminder that nothing but water belongs down a storm drain. Contact the Drain Commissioner's Office for more information about participating in their storm drain stenciling.

Getting Help

Genesee County
Drain Commissioner (810) 732-1590

Genesee County
Road Commission (810) 767-4920

Michigan Department of
Environmental Quality (800) 662-9278

See the Genesee County website at:
[www. GCDCSWM.com](http://www.GCDCSWM.com)
www.ClearGeneseeWater.org

Protect our Waterways at Leaf Collection Time

In a way, we all live on a river. Water that enters our storm drains flows directly into a stream or flyer untreated, along with everything that rainwater carries away from our streets: trash, leaves, grass, fertilizers, pet wastes, etc. Reducing pollutants from rainstorm runoff is one of the biggest hurdles to keeping our river clean.

During the Fall, it is especially important to keep leaves out of the storm inlets. In addition to clogging drains and causing backups, leaves that enter the storm drains decay in the water and rob fish of vital oxygen. Follow these steps to give our waterways a hand; you'll also reduce the risk of flooding on your street.



1. Compost yard waste. The next time you mow, mulch the leaves while cutting the grass. They're the best nutrients. You can also put leaves in compost containers for curbside collection.



2. Wait until the last minute. If you have your leaves picked up by a community's leaf collection program, rake the leaves into the street just prior to your scheduled pick-up day. Should it rain, leaves won't enter the storm drain inlets and waterways as easily if they are raked and stored on your lawn extension for as long as possible.

3. Stay out of the gutter. If your community does allow you to sweep leaves to the street for collection, be sure to keep leaves out of the gutter. There should be at least a one-foot space between the curb and your leaves for the stormwater to run into the gutter. This will reduce the risk of flooding in your area.

4. Keep Inlets clear. Reduce the risk of flooding and help protect the environment by removing accumulated debris from catch basin grates. Don't deposit yard or pet wastes into catch basins.